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1994/08/03

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APA

finleyhf:*031507Z AUG,SECDEFW,P,C*,CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE FOR XU HUIZI VIS

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PTTCZYUW RUEKJCS7076 2152127-CCCC--RUHQHQB.
ZNY CCCCC
P 031507Z AUG 94 PSN 124865P26
FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:ISA//
TO RUEHBJ/USDAO BEIJING CH
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC //EAP/PM//
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J-5//
RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
BT

REGRADED unclassified
DATE 11 Sep 95
AUTHORITY ISA (APA) SO 3.4.1 472

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SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE FOR XU HUIZI VISIT (U)
1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT OF PLA GEN XU HUIZI; HOWEVER, CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE IS ATTACHED IF ASKED.

2. (U) QUESTION 1: DOES THE VISIT OF THIS PLA GENERAL MEAN THAT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT TIANANMEN? ANSWER 1: THE PRESIDENT, IN RENEWING MFN FOR CHINA, SAID IN LATE MAY THAT THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO HAVE A SOUND RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. COOPERATION IN THE SECURITY AREA IS ONE SUCH REASON. TO HAVE A MULTI-FACETED RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA THAT INCLUDES THE SECURITY DIMENSION BY NO MEANS IMPLIES A LACK OF EMPHASIS ON
PAGE 02 RUEKJCS7076 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HUMAN RIGHTS. AND IN FACT, WE INTEND TO USE OUR MILITARY DIALOGUE TO EXPLAIN OUR HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS TO THE TOP MILITARY LEADERSHIP OF CHINA--AN IMPORTANT GROUP OF POLICY MAKERS IN BEIJING WHO HAVE NOT HAD, IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM OUR SENIOR DEFENSE LEADERS.

3. (U) QUESTION 2: WAS GENERAL XU HUIZI WAS INVOLVED IN THE TIANANMEN MASSACRE? IF SO, WHY ARE WE INVITING HIM HERE? ANSWER 2: THE PLA FOLLOWED THE ORDERS OF THE CIVILIAN CHINESE GOVERNMENT IN JUNE 1989 AND CARRIED OUT THE CRACKDOWN ON TIANANMEN SQUARE. GENERAL XU HUIZI IS PART OF THE PLA AND WAS IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LEADERSHIP'S DECISION. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LEADERS OF CHINA--INCLUDING THOSE IN THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY--IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES. WE HAD THREE HIGH-LEVEL DEFENSE OFFICIALS VISITING CHINA IN THE PAST TEN MONTHS, AND GENERAL XU IS COMING TO RECIPROCATATE THEIR VISITS. THESE EXCHANGES ARE VERY USEFUL IN OUR BEING ABLE TO TALK TO THE PLA LEADERSHIP DIRECTLY ON SECURITY ISSUES SUCH AS THE VERY URGENT NORTH KOREA NUCLEAR ISSUE. GENERAL XU'S VISIT IS PART OF THE PROCESS OF ENGAGEMENT
PAGE 03 RUEKJCS7076 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WITH THE PLA IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON A NUMBER OF SECURITY ISSUES. AS CHINA MODERNIZED AND GROWS ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY, OUR BEING ABLE TO TALK DIRECTLY TO THE PLA IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR OUR STRATEGIC POSTURE IN THE NEXT CENTURY.

4. (U) QUESTION 3: WHAT INITIATIVES DO YOU PLAN TO OFFER TO GENERAL XU ON HIS VISIT? ANSWER 3: WE PLAN TO DISCUSS WITH

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GENERAL XU THE NEXT STEPS IN OUR RESUMED MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. ANY INITIATIVE WOULD EMPHASIZE DIALOGUE AND SOLUTION OF BILATERAL AND REGIONAL PROBLEMS, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. SECURITY DIALOGUE, DEFENSE CONVERSION, PEACEKEEPING TRAINING, AMONG OTHERS, WILL BE AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PLA. NO ARMS SALES WILL BE DISCUSSED OR CONSIDERED.

5. (U) QUESTION 4: WHO WILL GENERAL XU SEE AND WHERE WILL HE VISIT? ANSWER 4: IN WASHINGTON, GENERAL XU WILL MEET WITH SENIOR DEFENSE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND GENERAL SHALIKASHVILI. GENERAL XU WILL THEN VISIT MILITARY FACILITIES IN NORFOLK AND HAWAII.

6. (U) END PRESS GUIDANCE.

PAGE 04 RUEKJCS7076 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7. (U) THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN CLEARED BY NSC AND STATE.
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J3(0)...INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU H(1)

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00-01-04(0) WWMCS(0) MDT(0) J52(0) J51(0) J2(0) J1(0) J032(0)

J01PA(0) ELCSS(0) CDO(0)

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